Guiding Principles

- *All children have the potential to be successful*
- *The community needs to be successful*
- *We can make a difference*

Office Hours:

Monday—Wednesday
8:30a.m.— 5:00p.m.

Thursday
8:30a.m.— 6:30p.m.

Friday
8:30a.m.— 1:30p.m.

Vernon Youth Services Bureau

9 Elm Street
Vernon, CT 06066

Alan Slobodien, Director

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Youth Services Goals

I. COORDINATION OF SERVICES

Through coordination with local, regional and state services, Vernon Youth Services Bureau will guide youth and their families to needed services such as:

- Mental Health Counseling
- Early Childhood Education Services
- Summer Nutrition Programs
- School Attendance Programs
- Youth Employment
- Prevention Programs
- Juvenile Diversion Programs
- Other Services as Requested

2. Community Networking

The Youth Services Bureau takes a leadership role in creating a coordinated network of community services. This goal is accomplished through the YSB involvement and membership on a variety of boards and commissions. Examples include membership on:

- Vernon School Readiness Council
- Vernon Drug & Alcohol Prevention Council
- Vernon Community Network
- CT Youth Services Association
- Vernon Juvenile Review Board

3. Youth Services Programs

The Vernon YSB advocates for the healthy development of children, youth and families by providing a variety of programs that focus on promoting positive behaviors. Examples of these programs include:

Peer Advocate Program

The Peer Advocate Program provides training for Rockville High School students to become role model helpers for their peer group. Peer Advocates are trained in an intensive course to provide the following services:

- Crisis Intervention
- Mentoring
- One to One Helping
- Tutoring
- New Student Tours
- Intergenerational Community Programs

Peer Advocates work with elementary, middle and high school students in both group and one to one settings.

Students Seeking New Achievements Positively (SSNAP)

The SSNAP program encourages high school students to make positive choices in school and in the community. Program members work to make positive change, educate students about relevant teen issues and promote good decision making.

Truancy Intervention

The Vernon Youth Services Bureau works closely with the Vernon Public Schools to assist children attend school regularly. Students who are not attending school can be referred to the Truancy Intervention Program and receive a variety of in-school and community-based services. Our Youth Counselor will meet with students in school, at home and at the Youth Services office. This program is offered to children attending the five elementary schools in Vernon. Involvement in the Truancy Intervention Program is voluntary.

After-School Program

Helping children with healthy development through after-school programming is an important goal for the Vernon Youth Services Bureau. Through this program, the YSB offers elementary aged youth the opportunity to learn and have fun in a setting that is well-supervised and well-structured. The YSB after-school program is offered at our 9 Elm Street office. Children attending our after-school program will:

- Learn Social Skills
- Enjoy Recreational Activities
- Benefit from Homework Support
- Participate in Field Trips
- Assist in Community Service Projects
- And Much More!

Early Childhood Education

The Youth Services Bureau co-chairs the Vernon School Readiness Council. The Council is responsible for promoting: 1)High quality pre-school education programming, 2) The smooth transition from pre-school to kindergarten and 3) Supporting successful education for children birth to eight. This is accomplished through coordinating professional development for pre-school-third grade teachers. Through its public awareness activities, the Vernon School Readiness Council informs Vernon residents about the importance of high quality early childhood education. Please contact us if you are interested in joining the School Readiness Council.